

## **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 4, 2010  
Newington Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.**

### **I. Roll Call**

Chairman Bowen convened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The following members were present: Mr. Nagel, Mrs. Nasinnyk, Mr. Lenares, Mr. Block, Ms. Wojtowicz, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Marcinczyk, Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Bowen.

Staff: Town Planner, Ed Meehan.

### **II. Minutes**

Mrs. Nasinnyk moved the minutes of the Committee's meeting, January 28, 2010, be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bottalico and approved, Mr. Bowen abstained.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. Discussion of Land Trust**

Ms. Wojtowicz will contact a member of the West Hartford Land Trust and invite them to a future Committee meeting.

Ed Meehan provided members with information on private land trust resource organizations and website links to local land trusts.

Chairman Bowen requested Ms. Wojtowicz and Mrs. Conway to serve as a subcommittee to research and provide information on land trusts. Questions to address are reasons for creating a land trust, roles of land trusts and legal steps in creating a land trust.

Chairman Bowen requested Mr. Block and Mr. Meehan to research and report on potential funding sources for the acquisition of open space. These will include both public programs such as DEP's Land and Water Conservation Fund and potential private organizations.

Chairman Bowen requested Mr. Nagel and Mr. Bottalico to prepare a list of other long range potential open space properties that the Committee might want to discuss. Mr. Bowen noted that the Committee's priority as directed by the Town Council is the Cedar Mountain area.

#### **IV. Old Business**

Mr. Bowen reviewed the draft letter prepared by staff to contact Cedar Mountain property owners inviting them to meet with the Committee. The Connecticut Humane Society will be added to this list and asked to meet. Mr. Meehan advised that property owners may not wish to discuss their real estate plans at a public meeting. Mr. Bowen requested that when these owners contact him, the format for the meeting would set be up, if a smaller group is preferred then perhaps the Committee's officers could meet.

#### **V. Other Business**

##### **A. DEP 2010 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

Mr. Meehan reported that DEP will receive 2010 Open Space grant applications up to May 3, 2010. Newington has been awarded grant funds from this program for Cedar Mountain on two prior occasions, but because property owners have not wished to sell, the grants were relinquished. The Committee's consensus was for the Town to again seek this funding and requested staff to pursue the preparation of an application to DEP.

##### **B. Future Meeting Dates**

The Committee's consensus was to attempt to meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. Staff will set this schedule up with the Town Manager's office and notify the Town Clerk. Committee information will be posted on the Town Planner's website.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Mr. Block moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan  
Town Planner

Town Clerk  
Town Website